

MY WATER SMELLS LIKE SOLVENTS OR PAINT THINNER

| POSSIBLE PROBLEM | HEALTH CONCERN? | OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS | CONFIRM IT | POSSIBLE FIXES | LICENSE REQUIRED FOR FIX? | STATE FUNDS? | MORE INFO |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--------------|--|
| Iron Bacteria See Iron Bacteria brochure | No, iron bacteria live off iron in the water. They are a nuisance, but not a threat to your health. There is no drinking water standard for iron bacteria. | Is there evidence of iron in your water; for example, red stains on plumbing fixtures or on laundry? Has there been a period of little or no water use? Does the problem fluctuate with water use? | Request a lab test for iron bacteria. Laboratories certified to test for coliform bacteria may also test for iron bacteria. Ask the lab. | Flush system and use more water | No | No | Iron in Drinking Water brochure |
| | | | | Periodic shock chlorination | No, but licensed Well Drillers or Pump Installers have the knowledge and equipment. | No | University of Wisconsin Extension |
| | | | | Well cleaning | No, but licensed Well Drillers or Pump Installers have the knowledge and equipment. | No | National Ground Water Association Water Systems Council |
| | | | | Continuous pellet chlorination | Licensed Pump Installers or well owners must install. DNR recommends that license holders install. | No | National Sanitation Foundation |

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| Volatile Organic Compounds or VOCs See VOC's in Drinking Water brochure. | Yes, if the contaminants exceed drinking water standards . See Department of Health Fact Sheets . | Is there a manufacturing facility or dry cleaning operation nearby? Does the problem stay constant even with fluctuations in water use? | Send a sample to a laboratory certified by DNR to perform VOC analyses . For the least cost, test for diesel range organics (DRO) or gasoline range organics (GRO) or the Safe Drinking Water VOC test. A full screen for VOCs is expensive. | Installation of Dept. of Commerce approved water treatment device. Devices are listed under contaminants they will remove. | Yes, treatment devices must be installed by licensed plumbers; or in some cases may be installed by the owner/occupant of a single family private residence. See plumbing license laws . Be sure the device chosen is capable of removing the level of contaminant you have in your water. | Yes, if drinking water standards are exceeded; eligibility criteria are met and approval received first. See well replacement program. | University of Wisconsin Extension National Ground Water Association Water Systems Council National Sanitation Foundation |
| | | | | Deepen well casing or drill new well | Yes, licensed Well Drillers . | | |

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| Sulfates | Possibly. It can act as a laxative. See the Division of Health Fact Sheet on sulfates. | Does the water have an astringent odor? Sulfates make the water acidic and more likely to cause corrosion of metal pipes. | Send a sample to a laboratory certified by DNR to perform sulfate analyses . | Installation of Dept. of Commerce approved water treatment device. Devices are listed under contaminants they will remove. | Yes, treatment devices must be installed by licensed plumbers; or in some cases may be installed by the owner/occupant of a single family private residence. See plumbing license laws . Be sure the treatment device chosen is capable of removing the level of contaminant you have in your water. | No | University of Wisconsin Extension National Ground Water Association Water Systems Council National Sanitation Foundation . |